

DEE VILLA,

LLANGOLLEN,

July, 1926.

LLANGOLLEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

(Comprising the Parishes of Llangollen Rural,
Llantysilio and Bryneglwys).

**To the Chairman and Members of the Llangollen Rural
District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health of the Llangollen Rural District, together with Vital Statistics for the year ended 31st December, 1925.

This, being a Survey Report, is drawn up to meet the requirements of Circular 648 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	21,793.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	3,778.
Estimated Population (1925)	...	...	...	3,661.
No. of Inhabited Houses (1921)...	...	...	...	890.
No. of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	924.
Rateable Value and Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£65.
Amount expended in Poor Law during 1925...	£1,031	18s.	8d.	

The district is almost entirely agricultural in character. The River Dee runs through the centre of the district, with mountains on either side. Apart from agricultural labour, the chief occupations of the inhabitants are slate quarries (2), situated on the north-western side of the district, where about 60 male hands are employed, while two brick and tile works in the district afford employment to a large number of men and boys. These occupations cannot be regarded as injurious to the health of the workers as there is no underground work.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The estimated population as furnished by the Registrar-General is 3,646.

Births.—58 births, 26 males and 32 females, were registered as occurring within the district during the year. Of this number 3 were illegitimate, or 5.1 per cent. of the total births. The birth rate for the district is 15.9 per thousand, as compared with 18.4 for the County of Denbigh, and 18.3 for England and Wales.

Deaths.—The number of deaths of persons belonging to the district during the year 1925 was 43. This gives a death rate of 11.7 as compared with 12.4 for the County of Denbigh, and 12.2 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.—The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 1, which is equivalent to an infant mortality rate of 17.2. The figure for England and Wales was 75.0 Births notified in parts of the district are visited by the County Health Visitor.

Infectious Diseases.—The following is a list of the infectious diseases notified during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	6
Pneumonia	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	3
„ (Non-Pulmonary)	...	...	—

Arrangements have been entered into with the Wrexham Joint Fever Hospital for the reception of cases of Infectious Diseases occurring in the district. This arrangement has proved very satisfactory, and relieves one of much anxiety, as cases are promptly dealt with, thereby considerably reducing the possibility of the spread of infection.

Tuberculosis.—Three deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Respiratory Diseases.—Two deaths from Bronchitis were registered, 3 from Pneumonia, and 1 from other Respiratory Diseases.

Heart Disease.—8 deaths were due to Heart Disease.

Cancer.—This caused the death of 5 persons (1 male and 4 females).

Hospitals.—There are no Hospitals in the district provided or subsidised either by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—There are no Clinic or Treatment Centres in the district, but persons suffering from venereal diseases attend the Chester Royal Infirmary for treatment, under the County Council Scheme.

Public Health Officers.—The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer, while the appointment of Sanitary Inspector is a full-time one.

Midwives.—There is only one Midwife in the area, who is engaged in private practice.

Byelaws.—Byelaws in force in the area are as follows :—

The Council's Byelaws deal with : (1) The cleansing of footways and pavements, removal of house refuse, cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools ; (2) Nuisances ; (3) Common Lodging Houses ; (4) New Buildings. The byelaws were prepared and approved of by the Local Government Board in 1904.

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Water Supply.—This is supplied from wells, tanks, conduits and reservoirs, and is free from pollution. Attention has previously been drawn to some portions of the village of GARTH not being supplied, and I am pleased to report that satisfactory progress has been made with the scheme which has been approved of by your Council, and which I anticipate will be in operation in the near future.

Vroncysyllte Supply.—I am pleased also to report that the householders of Vroncysyllte are satisfactorily supplied with water as the new scheme meets their demands.

Sun Bank.—I have to reiterate my opinion expressed in previous reports that a supply of water is necessary for the houses in Sun Bank.

Pentredwr and Bryneglwys.—I am hopeful that the needs of these two parishes will be met in the near future, as the matter is receiving the attention of the Council.

HOUSING.

There are 890 houses in the Llangollen Rural District. Two houses were erected during the year. The Council are to be congratulated upon their decision to erect new houses during the next

year. These will be spread over Trevor, Garth, Bryneglwys, Llantysilio and Pentredwr, and will alleviate much of the overcrowding known to exist in these parishes. The general standard of housing in the district is fair, but many houses are of a poor type, being in several cases built against banks and hillsides, with no through ventilation. There are no areas in the district that can be described as unhealthy.

Scavenging.—The work of scavenging is carefully supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. It is undertaken by the tenants, and at Vroncysyllte the refuse is deposited in tips. Farmers remove the contents of their privies and deposited on the land.

Closet Accommodation.—In the absence of a general scheme of Drainage and Sewerage, the greater portion of the houses in the district are only provided with pails and privy middens. Now that the water schemes are nearing completion, the Council should seriously consider the question of a Drainage and Sewerage Scheme.

CANAL BOATS.

Although these are inspected by the officers of adjoining Authorities, the Sanitary Inspector keeps a watchful eye on them, and no cause for complaint was found during the year.

Rivers and Streams.—The River Dee runs through the centre of the district, also running through the area are the Eglwyseg Brook, the Vivod Stream and the Pengwern Brook. No W.C.'s are connected to the river or streams, and the only pollution is by surface and slop water.

Milk Supply.—

No. of Registered Cowkeepers	...	35
„ Cows (approx.)	...	190
„ Milk Sellers Registered	...	35
Cubic Space per Cow	...	500—600

Frequent inspections were made to the Cowsheds, and their general condition appeared satisfactory.

Bakehouses.—There are no public bakehouses in the district.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Clarke Jones, the Chief Inspector of the County Council, for the following report as to the Samples taken under the above Acts in the District during 1925 :—

ARTICLE.	No. TAKEN.	RESULT OF ANALYSIS.	REMARKS.
New Milk	23	19 Genuine. 1 Deficient in Fat. 2 Containing Extraneous Water. 1 Containing Sediment.	Fine 20/- 1 Vendor fined £2. 1 Vendor cautioned Vendor cautioned.
Lard	1	Genuine.	
Vinegar	1	Do.	
Flour	1	Do.	
Total	26		

In conclusion, I desire to express my appreciation of the continued assistance rendered to me at all times by the Clerk, Mr. E. Derbyshire; Dr. T. Roberts, County Medical Officer, and the members of the Council. Nor can I refrain from recording my admiration of the excellent services rendered by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Idwal Roberts. He is an extremely capable officer, tactful and conscientious. I append his report.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

RICHARD DRINKWATER,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
Causes of Death in Llangollen Rural District.

Causes of Death.			Male.	Female.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	1	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	1	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	4	1
Heart Disease	...	...	5	3
Arterio-Sclerosis	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis	...	...	2	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	1	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Pre-mature Birth	...	...	1	—
Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	1	2
Other Defined Diseases...	...	...	6	3
			25	18
Special Causes (included above)—Poliomyelitis...			1	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—				
Total			1	1
Illegitimate			—	—
BIRTHS.				
Legitimate			26	29
Illegitimate			—	3
Total Births			26	32

Population ... 3,646

TABLE II.
INFANTILE MORTALITY.

No. of Deaths under One Year of Age :—1 Female (age 9 months).
Cause of Death—Scald (Accidental).

TABLE III.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES.	At all Ages.	AGE—PERIOD.		
		5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.
Scarlet Fever	6	4	2	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	—	—	3
Total	10	5	2	3

LLANGOLLEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

**Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year ending
December 31st, 1925.**

*To the Chairman and Members of the Llangollen Rural
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1925, for your consideration.

During the year, inspection carried out resulted in the discovery of 108 sanitary defects, existent on various premises within the District.

The number of notices found necessary to serve in respect of these defects was 105, made up as follows :—

Informal Notices served on Owners	...	70
" " " Occupiers	...	35
Statutory Notices served on Owners	...	Nil.
" " " Occupiers	...	Nil.

The following is a tabulated statement of work carried out :—

TABLE No. I.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

No. of Registered Cowkeepers	...	35
" " Cows...	...	190
" " Milksellers	...	35
Cubic Space per Cow	...	500—600 cu. ft.

You will note that there are 35 Registered Cowsheds, etc., in the District. Although some of these structures are not desirable places for the production of such an important product as Milk, they are kept in a fair state of cleanliness.

HOUSING WORK.

There have been many improvements in the Housing conditions, but the shortage of suitable dwellings for the Working Class is still very acute. This renders inspection in some cases futile,

as difficulty is experienced in dealing with houses below a reasonable standard of living. Closing Orders where reconstruction is required cannot be issued, as there is no alternate accommodation. Whilst reconstruction and Demolition are impossible, everything possible is done to remedy sanitary defects which might be injurious to the health of the occupants.

TABLE No. II.

Number of New Houses erected during the year	...	2
Timber Bungalows	...	2
With State Assistance under the Housing Acts	...	1

INSPECTIONS.

Total Number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health Acts)	...	...	202
Number of Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910	...	...	50
Number of Houses (exclusive of the above) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	...	...	18
Number of Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	Nil.
Number of Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...

Action under Statutory Powers.

Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, etc., 1919.

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	2
Number of Houses rendered fit—				
By Owners	...	...	...	2
By Local Authority	...	...	...	2
Number of Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of Declarations by Owners of intention to close	...	...	...	3

Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Number of Representations made to Owners with a view to making Closing Orders	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, and the Dwelling House rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of Dwelling Houses Demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	Nil.